

MAINE
STATE
CHAMBER
of
COMMERCE

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The voice of Maine business

May 12, 2005

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

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RE: Applications for Consent to Transfer Control of Filed by Verizon
Communications, Inc. and MCI, Inc., WC Docket No. 05-75

Dear Secretary Dortch:

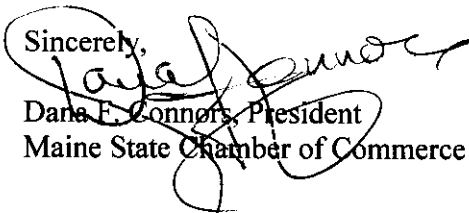
The Maine State Chamber of Commerce represents more than 1,200 businesses throughout Maine – from the state's largest employers to its smallest entrepreneurs – and, as a result, is the primary voice of the state's business community at-large, advocating for the critical issues facing Maine.

The continued availability of advanced telecommunications services is critical to our state's economic future. Extensive fiber optics deployment throughout Maine is allowing businesses the freedom to locate anywhere in the state, offering access to a diverse array of cutting edge voice, data, and video services. Maintaining state-of-the-art connections to the world economy is vitally important to Maine's economic success, providing opportunities for job creation and retention, workforce development, and numerous other quality of life benefits.

As such, the Maine State Chamber of Commerce supports Verizon's acquisition of MCI. A combined Verizon and MCI will have the financial and network resources to develop new products and advanced services, creating efficiencies and opportunities that neither company could realize on its own. Advanced telecommunications technology has already provided substantial benefits to the Maine economy and continued investment and innovation holds the key to our future success.

The Maine State Chamber therefore encourages the Federal Communications Commission to approve Verizon's acquisition of MCI so that the combined companies can continue to invest in Maine's infrastructure and support Maine businesses.

Sincerely,


Dana F. Connors, President
Maine State Chamber of Commerce

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